



October 27, 2004

District Election Officer Appointed

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente has appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly to serve as the federal District Election Officer for Rhode Island. Mr. Donnelly is responsible for overseeing the District's handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters.

The appointment was made pursuant to the Department of Justice Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative, which Attorney General John Ashcroft established in October 2002. The goals of the initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute election offenses whenever and wherever they occur - to make voting easier and cheating harder.

The initiative is also intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on Election Day.

Mr. Corrente said that Assistant U.S. Attorney Donnelly will supervise the investigation and prosecution of any election fraud matters that may arise out of the November 2 election. He will work in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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Allegations of election fraud may be reported to the following agencies:

U.S. Attorney's Office 401-709-5000

FBI 401-272-8310

Rhode Island State Police 401-444-1000

—or—

The appropriate municipal police department

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can also be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or 202-307-2767.

Forms of election abuse covered by federal law include voter bribery, voter intimidation, and ballot forgery.

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Contact: 401-709-5032 or 202-514-2007

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